

Principles for Dealing with Tough Times

Proverbs 3:5-6

1. “Trust in the LORD with all your heart”

- A. Trust = be confident/secure in, confident expectation
- B. All your heart = a reference to the emotions, will and intellect
- C. Our security and hope must be fully placed in the Lord (the self-existent One), emotionally, physically and intellectually- All In with our trust!

2. “and do not lean on your own understanding”

- A. Lean = to support oneself, rely on
- B. Understanding = My own knowledge or perceived meaning

3. “In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths”

- A. Acknowledge = to know by experience, to make known
 - I need to know Him better
 - I need to make Him known in all I do – living in a way that reflects Him
- B. As we trust Him and acknowledge Him in our lives, He will direct us though life.

4. What does it look like to “acknowledge God”?

- A. Remembering who God is and what He has done will remind us of who we are trusting. (Psalm 77:2, 11,12)
 - This chapter starts with the writer’s struggle and stress and ends with his refocus on all that God has done.
(Like last week’s “with thanksgiving”)
- B. Casting our cares on Him. (1 Peter 5:7)
 - Literally to throw our cares (worries, difficulties and needs of this world, anxieties) to Jesus.
- C. Ask God for His wisdom in the situation. (James 1:5)
 - When are we to do this? – v. 1
- D. Encouragement from other believers.
(1 Thessalonians 5:14, Ephesians 5:19)